

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

[Page 15, paragraph 2]

For example, when the temperature increases, the image forming position defined by the third optical lens system 18 changes in a positive direction (to the right in Fig. 1) for both directions corresponding to the main scanning direction and the sub scanning direction, respectively. In this preferred embodiment, therefore, for offsetting the above change in the image forming position of the third optical lens system 18 caused by the temperature change, the plastic lens 141 having a negative power in both directions corresponding to the main scanning direction and the sub scanning direction, respectively, is used in the second optical lens system 14. The plastic lens 141 changes the image forming position in a negative direction (to the left in Fig. 1) for both directions corresponding to the main scanning direction and the sub scanning directions, respectively, when the temperature rises. The changes in the image forming positions of the third optical lens system 18 and the second optical lens system 14, are caused by variation in a curvature of an imaging surface in each of the optical lens systems 14 and 18 respectively. Thus, the variation in a curvature of an imaging surface in the second optical lens system due to a temperature change is opposite to the variation in a curvature of an imaging surface of the third optical lens system in the sub-scanning direction in accordance with the temperature change.

Accordingly, the change in the image forming position defined by the third optical lens system 18 in the positive direction is offset by the change in the image forming position

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by the plastic lens 141 in the negative direction. Thus, even when the operating temperature changes, the diameter of an optical beam spot is kept very small on the surface to be scanned.

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